

Court Staff Survey Questions for Trial Judges

[on the following questions, judges are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1=inadequate performance and 5= outstanding performance]

1. The judge is fair and impartial.
2. The judge avoids impropriety and the appearance of impropriety.
3. The judge's behavior demonstrates equal treatment of all persons or classes of persons.
4. The judge appears to consider both sides of an argument before rendering a decision.
5. The judge's oral communication while in court is clear and logical.
6. The judge promotes public trust and confidence in the courts through his or her conduct on and off the bench.
7. The judge respects the time of the participants and understands the personal and financial costs they may be incurring to participate in court proceedings.
8. The judge is prepared for argument and hearings.
9. The judge treats all attorneys with equal courtesy and respect.
10. The judge issues orders and opinions in a prompt and timely manner.
11. The judge realistically manages his or her calendar
12. The judge convenes court without undue delay
13. The judge is willing to make difficult or unpopular decisions.
14. The judge's rulings and legal opinions are free from personal bias.
15. The judge explains the reasons for his or her decisions, when appropriate.
16. The judge works with pro se litigants fairly and effectively.
17. The judge's personal life does not impair his or her judicial performance.
18. The judge maintains diligent work habits.
19. The judge's interactions with court staff are professional and constructive.
20. The judge is an effective manager of his or her staff, operations and business.
21. The judge appropriately enforces deadlines and court orders.
22. The judge is appropriately accessible to court personnel.
23. The judge effectively addresses inappropriate courtroom conduct.
24. The judge reasonably accommodates changing technology.
25. The judge appears to pay attention to what goes on in court.

26. Adjective Selection

[respondents are asked to mark at least 3 words that best describe the judge]

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Attentive | Rude | Considerate |
| Cantankerous | Calm | Defensive |
| Patient | Confident | Dismissive |
| Consistent | Arrogant | Polite |
| Indecisive | Receptive | Disrespectful |
| Knowledgeable | Intelligent | Impatient |
| Flippant | | |

[Yes/No and open-ended question]

27. Would you recommend that this judge be retained? Why/Why not?

28. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about this judge, please add your comments below.